

City of Clewiston
Special Magistrate
Regular Hearing
October 15, 2014

The City of Clewiston Special Magistrate held its regular meeting in the city hall commission chambers, 115 West Ventura Avenue, Clewiston, Florida, on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Magistrate Watt. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance

Magistrate present: James L. Watt

Personnel present: Matthew Beatty, Debbie McNeil, Chad Pelham and Debbi Towner

Visitor(s) present:

Special Magistrate Watt briefly summarized the purpose of the hearing.

Approval of the minutes from July 16, 2014: Let the record show an accurate reflection of the proceedings as presented.

Swearing in of all parties intending to present testimony.

Additions/deletions to agenda: Mr. Pelham stated that there had been nine (9) red light cases, one deleted leaving eight (8) cases to be heard.

Case No. 14-0055:

Magistrate Watt announced that the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss and receive input from all interested parties regarding case number #14-0055, for the property located at 811 East Royal Palm Avenue, owner of record, Charles Azan.

Ms. McNeil stated that the violation is a property maintenance issue. The owner called to say the property is now in compliance. Ms. McNeil verified that it is in compliance.

The City of Clewiston recommended and Mr. Watt ruled that case #14-0055 is dismissed.

Case No. 14-0092:

Magistrate Watt announced that the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss and receive input from all interested parties regarding case number #14-0092, for the property located at 543 East Sugarland Hwy., owner of record, Hendry County Motors, Inc.

Ms. McNeil stated that the violation is a property maintenance issue. The owner, Mr. Phelps, stated the first notice he received was on the 9th. He will certainly make sure that the windows are repaired, which he said have been vandalized and would like 90 days to get them fixed.

The City of Clewiston recommended and Mr. Watt ruled that case #14-0092 is still in violation and granted the owner ninety (90) days to comply.

Lien reduction

Mr. Reese asked John Payne to come to the podium. He stated that there were two (2) cases – one for property maintenance and one for a dangerous building. The total accrued is \$31,300 in fines. Mr. Payne said that he did not request a title search when he purchased the property in June of 2014. Mr. Watt stated this is an unfortunate situation and the party that caused the problems has managed to escape any penalties. Mr. Watt recommends that while the previous owner was at fault, Mr. Payne was negligent and therefore, he asked that the City Commission find some figure between 0 and \$31,300 that they think is fair and appropriate.

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Red light camera cases

Mr. Pelham stated that there are eight (8) red light camera cases on the docket.

1st case against Austin Savery is discussed. Mr. Savery was present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt dismissed the case, fine and admin fee.

The 2nd case against Shawn McCreery is discussed. Mr. McCreery was present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt dismissed the case, fine and admin fee.

The 3rd case against Shane Ashburn is discussed. Mr. Ashburn was present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt dismissed the case, fine and admin fee.

The 4th case against Raymond Rende is discussed. Mr. Rende was present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt waived the \$50 court cost but upheld the \$158 fine.

The 5th case against Myia Morgan is discussed. Ms. Morgan was not present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt levied the fine and court cost.

The 6th case against James Brooks is discussed. Mr. Brooks was present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt dismissed the fine but levied the court cost of \$50.

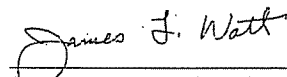
The 7th case against Catherine Takacs is discussed. Mr. Tom Crum was driving. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt dismissed the court cost, but levied the fine of \$158.

The 8th case against Clorice Johnson is discussed. Ms. Johnson was not present. After hearing all testimony, Mr. Watt levied the fine of \$158 and court cost of \$50.

Magistrate Watt closed the public hearing after receiving no further comments, written or oral, from the audience or the board.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.


James Watt, Special Magistrate